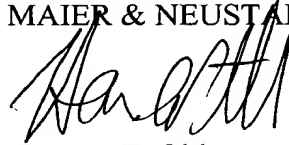


REMARKS

The application is now ripe for examination on the merits. An early examination is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 8, 2001

IN THE CLAIMS

--Claims 1-24 (Cancelled).

Claims 25-43 (New).--

[illegible]